

NASA REVIEW COMPLETED

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9 July 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Assistant Director, OSA

SUBJECT : Photo Reconnaissance by Manned
Orbital Flight

REFERENCE : [REDACTED] dated 4 June 1963

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1. As a result of the discussions with Dr. Fubini and Dr. Seamans at NASA on 3 July 1963, I have begun to suspect that photo reconnaissance of the earth by manned orbital flight may well be severely limited insofar as any significant contributions to intelligence are concerned. As is noted in the referenced memo, the unmanned systems presently under development seem to offer more sophistication than those presently envisioned for the manned vehicles, which is not inconsistent with automation trends in most other fields.

2. Dr. Fubini expressed reservations similar to those cited in the referenced memorandum and questioned whether the benefits to be derived would be commensurate with the cost of the program.

3. In view of the foregoing, it is my personal opinion that there should be a careful technical assessment of this proposal, by fully cleared and fully qualified personnel, prior to the commitment of funds which might better be applied to the refinement and improvement of current unmanned systems and systems now under development for future use.

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